

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Primorskiy Kray)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	City of Sovetskaya Gavan	DATE DISTR.	8 July 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	5	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES		

25X1

1. The city of Sovetskaya Gavan (N 48-58, E 140-18) was located in Primorskiy Kray; the city itself was merely the center of a large group of military housing developments. The locations of these military garrisons and housing areas were not planned on geometrical lines. The civilian villages were not areas populated exclusively by civilian workers or technicians; military, naval, and air force personnel also lived in these civilian villages.
2. The region surrounding Sovetskaya Gavan was divided into the following major areas:
  - a. Sovetskaya Gavan proper.
  - b. Znamyenka .
  - c. Byaude.
  - d. Desna .
  - e. Naval City.
  - f. Submarine Fleet area.
  - g. Postovaya.
  - h. Pyatisotka.
  - i. Kolkhoz Ilicha.
  - j. Meygatka.

SECRET

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------	-------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

328

SECRET

25X1

-2-

3. Prior to the Revolution, Sovetskaya Gavan was called Bukhta Imperatorskaya. It has an excellent, wide bay, capable of receiving naval vessels of any class. The entrance to the bay was not wide, but further inland the bay widened, and then divided into three arms. The coast was covered with pine trees. The southern side of the bay was hilly; along almost the entire length of the bay, villages, and military, naval, and aviation garrisons were located.
4. The bulk of the construction in the city was completed in the late 1930's. There was no wartime destruction, nor has there been any significant construction of a non-military nature since 1945. Military construction has been mainly the completion of military projects in the city itself, and the surrounding bays.
5. The buildings and streets were in the provincial manner, as was the entire city. The streets were winding and not paved, and they were not illuminated at night. The buildings were of two types: one-story, wooden, private dwellings, and new, two-story, standard, government buildings. Private homes were of no single pattern; some had two rooms, while others had four. They were generally unpainted, but those that were painted were of a dark yellow or white color. Barracks, workers' living quarters, were long, barn-like structures divided on the inside into rooms. One-story barracks contained from 80 to 120 persons. The standard, wooden, two-story barracks contained approximately fifty to seventy-five rooms, with one kitchen for every five or six apartments. These buildings were unpainted, and were weather-beaten to a dull gray color. The roofs of all buildings were covered with wooden shingles.
6. Military personnel and persons voluntarily employed by the military establishment composed forty-five per cent of the population of Sovetskaya Gavan. There were approximately 8,000 to 10,000 inhabitants in all. The population increased slightly after 1945 as a result of the arrival of workers recruited in central USSR. The majority of these inhabitants were Great Russians, although members of all the various republics were represented. There was no obvious racial discrimination in the city, although Great Russians displayed an increasing degree of chauvinism. Overt manifestations of this were punishable by law. There were no foreigners living in the city.
7. Religion did not play any part in the cultural life of the city, and had no influence on the average citizen. Ninety-five per cent of the population professed no religious belief; the five per cent that did, consisted of the older residents of the area. In all the new developments constructed by the Soviet government, there was no religious congregation.
8. The military newspaper Na Strazhe Rodine was issued weekly by the Seventh Fleet Political Department. The paper had a circulation of 15,000, and the printing plant was located in Naval City. The first page consisted of editorials, news of the USSR, local information, and speeches of state and party leaders. Activities of the Party were reported on the second and third pages, plus some local news on the third page. The international news was relegated to the fourth page. Radio stations at Naval City and the Submarine Base broadcast programs for the public for fifteen minutes in the evening, which gave local news concerning concerts and current films. Generally, the population listened to Radio Khabarovsk (N 48-30, N 135-06) through local, radio-relay, loudspeakers. Radio receivers were sold very rarely, and then at extremely high prices; hence, the average man did not own one.
9. The city had one hospital, one polyclinic, and one pharmacy, all of which served the entire rayon of Sovetskaya Gavan. All persons were entitled to medical care. There was an outpatient clinic with a single waiting room attached to the pharmacy, with a doctor and a nurse in attendance. Industrial enterprises also had first aid centers. There were no epidemics during the years 1946 to 1948.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-3-

10. There were no institutions of higher education in Sovetskaya Gavan, either professional or technical. There was a ten-year school in Sovetskaya Gavan, and one in Pyatisotka.
11. The main club in Sovetskaya Gavan was a two-story building, the upper floor of which was occupied by the Party, and was used for political and cultural classes and lectures. There was an auditorium on the first floor in which movies, plays, dances, and concerts were held. There was a small movie theater, which showed films four times a week. The village of Pyatisotka also had a two-story club which was similar to the one in Sovetskaya Gavan. There was no local theater group; however, the Seventh Fleet did have amateur groups that gave performances. American films of the musical comedy variety were shown, but very rarely. Artists from Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad, and Odessa theaters traveled throughout the cities of the Far East giving concerts, but they did not enjoy very great popularity. All their programs were checked beforehand by the rayon committee of the Party. No open-air sports were played in Sovetskaya Gavan proper, and no sport clubs of any type existed. However, there was a stadium in Naval City for the use of the fleet, and another in Byaunda for the air arm.

#### Housing and Living Conditions

12. Housing for a new resident in Sovetskaya Gavan was determined by the organization to which he was reporting, as each organization was required to obtain housing for persons assigned to it. If a person arrived in the city and was unable to find work, he could stay at a hotel or reside with local inhabitants. However, it was almost impossible to find a place to live in Sovetskaya Gavan; the living conditions of the permanent residents and the military personnel were miserable. The inns of Sovetskaya Gavan were one-story buildings about 40 meters long, divided into rooms in which there were six to eight cots. The price for one night's lodging was 12 rubles. Each organization had rooms in its living quarters set aside for transients who were employed or were members of the organization. The price of a bed for one night in these rooms was six rubles.
13. Ten per cent of the population of Sovetskaya Gavan lived in one-family houses; eighty per cent lived in quarters provided by state organs. The remaining ten per cent lived in crude barracks. Workers who lived in the standard, government-provided, quarters had one common kitchen for every four rooms. The walls were whitewashed, and the rooms were furnished with a table, two or three chairs, a bed, shelves, electric lights, and a brick stove which used wood for fuel. There was no running water, and so there were no showers, baths, or toilets in the quarters. Water was carried from a common tap in the courtyard. The common toilet was likewise located in the courtyard. Residents bathed in the city or village baths once a week, usually on Saturdays or Sundays.
14. Directors and principal party leaders generally lived in private homes, or at least occupied two or three rooms. Teachers lived at their schools, and had one or two rooms. The rooms of technicians, engineers, and low-level managerial personnel differed in minor respects. Some rooms were quite drab, while others had rugs, pictures on the walls, and comfortable furniture. Insects were common only in the older buildings, and in the homes of the lowest class of workers.
15. Consumer goods were sold freely, and without limit. The basic food products were sold on a limit-per-person-basis, but some items, such as sugar, were absent from the supply stores for months because of poor transportation facilities. The principal item in the diet of the Soviet population was bread, but the supply available in Sovetskaya Gavan for normal consumption was generally inadequate. There was a black market in existence which sold food products at extremely high prices. Persons engaged in black market operations were generally those medically unfit for labor, the wounded and the crippled. The climate of Sovetskaya Gavan was unfavorable, and as a result agricultural products and fruits were always scarce. Imports could not be supplied from other areas because of the poor transportation system. Consequently, many inhabitants fell ill of scurvy.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-4-

Working Conditions

16. The economic and social life of Sovetskaya Gavan depended in great measure on the actions of the naval authorities. Most workers were employed in one of the following enterprises: ship repair yard, ports, fish salting factory, wood working factory, or military and naval units. Office personnel constituted about 25 to 30 per cent of the labor force. The only concern in the city employing more than 1,000 workers was the ship repair yard, which was operated by the Seventh Fleet. Women composed approximately 25 to 30 per cent of the entire labor force. The factories worked only one shift daily, although several sections worked on a twenty-four-hour basis.
17. The personnel section (Otdel Kadrov) of any enterprise, with the exception of those of a purely military character, could hire any worker freely if there were vacancies and the applicant had the desired qualification. A worker could seek employment only if he had been released from previous employment, and had documentary evidence to prove it. In the event of a severe shortage of labor in a given enterprise, recruiting commissions were formed, which had the right to hire workers from any part of the USSR, and send them to the enterprise concerned. This method of recruitment was regulated by the All-Union Ministry of Labor Reserves.
18. Wage scales for the Sovetskaya Gavan area were those of the Third Zone of the USSR, and were administered by the Ministry of Construction of Naval and Military Enterprises (sic), and by the Seventh Fleet. Working conditions were determined by the director of the enterprise concerned; they were then approved by higher authority up to and including the ministry. Average wages of the typical worker were approximately 650 to 750 rubles per month. Working conditions in Sovetskaya Gavan were on the lowest possible level; the bulk of the work was done by hand. In winter, there was not sufficient heat in the shops. The most difficult aspect of the workers' life was the norm system, which did not take into account the lack of mechanical aids to assist the worker. Salaries were paid in strict conformance to the percentage of the norm set for a given job, regardless of difficulty.

Political Life

19. Total party strength in the factories was approximately 500 to 600 members, and five or six candidates. The rayon committee of the Party was located in Sovetskaya Gavan. Each enterprise had its party organ, which was the leading element of the production and political life of the enterprise. It conducted all political and propaganda activities, which consisted of the following: the arrangement of meetings and conferences aimed at strengthening the politico-spiritual life of the worker and devotion to the Soviet State, the urging of workers to fulfill the norms, and an explanation of international political questions from the point of view of Communist theory. The average party member attended at least one meeting every ten days, and one at the end of each quarter. At these meetings, the work of the previous ten days, or of the quarter, was discussed, and new tasks were assigned for the next period. Party dues were collected by a member of the party control organization. One of the concrete tasks laid down by the Party was the completion of the Five-Year Plan in four years.
20. The number of Komsomol members in all organizations was approximately 250 to 300. The rayon committee was located in Sovetskaya Gavan, but there appeared to be little active work on the part of the Komsomol. Low-level organs of the Komsomol in some enterprises were not even carrying out a program, while others limited their work to copying the work of the Party, and to organizing election rallies.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-5-

Transportation

21. The railway station, Sortirovochnoye, was the terminal point for the rail line from Komsomolsk to Sovetskaya Gavan. The freight station was not located in the passenger depot, but was approximately 20 to 25 meters from the main station. The station had two rail lines. The passenger station was an unpainted, one-story, wooden building of the usual railway type. The platform was wooden, and was surrounded by a wooden fence. There was a small square in front of the station, from which a road led to the village of Pyatisotka. The railway station was located approximately 25 kilometers from Sovetskaya Gavan, and was difficult to reach as one had to ferry across the bay on privately-owned row boats. One passenger train arrived from Komsomolsk every twenty-four hours, and one departed for that city. There was no regular schedule for the movement of freight trains. There were three or four freight trains per day in either direction. All locomotives were steam-powered.
22. Sovetskaya Gavan was connected with the other villages and garrisons of the area by cutters, small steamers, and sloops. This intra-bay traffic was very heavy during the summer months. Each garrison or village along the shore had its own small, wooden wharf. Private citizens, who wished to move about the area, generally obtained passage on privately-owned, oar-operated ferries at a cost of from three to seven rubles per passage. Military personnel who used privately-owned transportation, or government transportation, were not admitted free of charge. Water traffic ceased for four months of the year, when the bay was frozen.
23. There were no taxis, streetcars, busses, or other means of transportation except trucks belonging to the military units. The roads which connected the various villages and garrisons were narrow, dirt or gravel roads, which were almost impassable after rains. In some areas, all movement of freight trucks was stopped entirely during the rains.

Security

24. Patrols of the military komendaturas were responsible in great measure for the maintenance of peace and order in the city and rayon of Sovetskaya Gavan. These patrols had authority over all military personnel, and in some respects over civilians. Only one section of militia served both the city and the rayon; the headquarters of this section was in the city of Sovetskaya Gavan. There was one People's Court in the city. Pass control points of the Border Guard did not exist. Passes to enter restricted areas were issued by the military unit responsible for the area.
25. In Sovetskaya Gavan proper, there was one small jail. On the southwestern edge of the village of Pyatisotka, there was a labor camp in which 400 to 500 male prisoners were confined. Twenty to twenty-five kilometers from Sovetskaya Gavan, there was a labor camp containing 600 to 700 female prisoners; this camp was located near the railroad. Seventy per cent of those confined in the labor camps had been convicted of crimes against state property, such as theft or embezzlement. Thirty per cent were imprisoned for crimes against peace and order, such as drunkenness, or assault and battery. Political offenders were sent to the regions of the far north, such as, Magadan (N 59-34, E 150-48), Kolyma, or northern Siberia.

SECRET

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Promorskiy Kray)	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Military Forces in Sovetskaya Gavan 2. Airfields in Sovetskaya Gavan Area	DATE DISTR.	8 July 1953	
25X1 DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
		REFERENCES		

25X1

1. Sovetskaya Gavan was the main base of the Seventh Fleet. The fleet was commanded by Vice Admiral BAYKOV, who was also the commander of the garrison of Sovetskaya Gavan.

2. Sovetskaya Gavan actually had two ports, one of which was located on the western side of the city, and served as a freight transport facility. Entrance to the port was free, and there were no special guards. The port was not sealed off from the city, and did not have a control point. The other port was located on the eastern side of the city; it served as a maintenance and repair base for shipping, and had a floating drydock. Entrance to and exit from the port area was through a control point, for which passes were issued by the repair yard administration. Entrance to the bay was guarded by a patrol cutter.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Freight entering the harbor was almost entirely of a military nature, principally supplies for the garrisons and bases.

3. Fleet units stationed in the Sovetskaya Gavan area included: 12 or 13 submarines of the SHCHUKA class, and 8 to 10 submarines of the M-class. There were approximately 1,800 to 2,000 submarine personnel, including officers and enlisted men. Also attached to Sovetskaya Gavan were a division of minesweepers and a division of destroyer escorts. There was also a division of frigates, but units of this division were stationed on Kamchatka. Other vessels observed included two landing craft and various small craft. There were approximately 8,500 to 9,000 officers and enlisted men assigned to the fleet. The naval shore detachment consisted of 50 or 60 permanently-based personnel; the entire strength of the unit varied with the number of personnel needed to bring regular shore and sea units up to strength.

SECRET

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC							
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

SECRET

25X1

-2-

4. The military commandant of the garrison in Sovetskaya Gavan was Major General **PETROV**. An antiaircraft unit with a strength of from 160 to 170 men was based in Sovetskaya Gavan; this unit maintained a small radio station and a radar installation. An infantry unit was located in the city; its strength was between 350 and 400 men. This figure included the patrol units of the Sovetskaya Gavan area military komendatura.
5. There were five airfields of military importance in the area:
  - a. Postovaya, the major airfield of the area. Naval aviation units of the Seventh Fleet were based at this airfield. All types of aircraft used the field, including units of the Civil Air Fleet. The airfield had two runways; one was 800 to 1,200 meters in length and covered with an American-manufactured, steel, landing mat, while the other was a dirt runway about 800 to 1,000 meters long. Two construction battalions were located at Postovaya airfield and the surrounding area; total strength of these units was approximately 1,500 or 1,600 men.
  - b. Maygatka airfield, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Sovetskaya Gavan. The airfield, which was surrounded by pine trees, had one runway covered with an American-manufactured, steel, landing mat, and was approximately 800 to 1,000 meters in length. This field was used by military aircraft only.
  - c. Znamyenka airfield, approximately four or five kilometers to the southeast of Sovetskaya Gavan.<sup>1</sup> The field had one dirt runway 700 to 900 meters in length. There was an aviation repair shop at the field, and three or four small hangars. The field was used by military aircraft only.
  - d. Byauda airfield, on the peninsula between the western and southwestern arms of the bay. The field was 600 to 700 meters in length, and had one dirt runway. The headquarters of the Air Arm of the Seventh Fleet was located at this field. The commander of the Air Arm was Major General of Aviation **NAUMOV**.
  - e. Desna airfield, located to the west of Byauda. This field, which was 600 to 700 meters in length, had one dirt runway, and served as an emergency landing strip.
6. There were no civil airports in the Sovetskaya Gavan area. Air transportation in the area was under the control of the Air Arm of the Seventh Fleet, and its transport units. There were no regular air schedules connecting with other cities. Generally, two or three transport aircraft arrived and departed each day at Postovaya airfield.

25X1   Comment. Recent information locates Znamyenka airfield at two miles northeast of Sovetskaya Gavan.

SECRET